A Private Member's Bill entitled "The Constitution (Amendment) Bill, 1997" to provide for a Legislative Assembly and a Council of Ministers for Chandigarh has been introduced in the Lok Sabha recently. A demand has also been raised recently for the creation of a mini-Legislative Assembly on the lines of Pondicherry by joining the territories of Daman & Diu and Dadra & Nagar Haveli. No demand for a Legislature has been received from the Administration of Lakshadweep.

[Translation]

Procurement Prices of Wheat, Rice and Sugar

3638. SHRI SHIVRAJ SINGH :
SHRIMATI BHAVNABEN DEVRAJBHAI CHIKHALIA :
SHRI K. PARASURAMAN :
DR. MURLI MANOHAR JOSHI :

Will the Minister of FOOD be pleased to state :

(a) the procurement prices of wheat, rice and sugar during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97;

(b) the reasons for increase each time;

(c) whether the procurement of wheat, rice and sugar was satisfactory during the said period;

(d) if so, the details thereof, year-wise; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor ?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) The Minimum Support prices fixed by the Government for wheat and paddy during 1994-95, 1995-96 and 1996-97 marketing seasons are as under :—

(Rs. per qtl.)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97
Wheat	350	360	380
Paddy			
Common	340	360	380
Fine	360	375	395
Superfine	380	395	415

Statement-I showing procurement prices of levy rice for the last three Kharif Marketing Seasons is attached.

Statement-II showing the ex-factory prices of levy sugar for the last three sugar seasons is annexed.

(b) The Minimum Support Prices of wheat and paddy fixed by the Government are remunerative in nature. The MSP have been raised on the basis of the recommendations of Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) which takes into account a number of factors such as cost of production, reasonable return to the farmers, etc.

Procurement prices of levy rice are increased after taking into account MSP of paddy, statutory taxes and levies, milling charges and other incidental charges, out-turn ratio of rice from paddy, etc. etc.

As regards sugar, the increase in Statutory Minimum Price for Sugarcane and conversion costs results in rise in ex-factory levy sugar prices.

(c) to (e) The procurement of wheat and paddy under price support scheme is voluntary in nature for the farmers. Similarly, the collection of rice under levy scheme also depends on the purchase of paddy made by the millers. Hence, no targets as such are fixed for procurement of wheat and rice.

Quantities of wheat and rice procured for Central Pool since 1994-95 Marketing Season are as under :—

(In Lakh Tonnes)

	1994-95	1995-96	1996-97 (As on 12.3.97)
Wheat	118.69	123.27	81.82
Rice	134.03	99.49	95.86

The sugar production during the season 1994-95 was about 146.43 lakh tonnes and during 1995-96 it was about 164.29 lakh tonnes. 40% of the production, less incentives, is taken by the Government as levy sugar.

The above quantities procured were adequate for meeting the requirement of PDS/RPDS.